

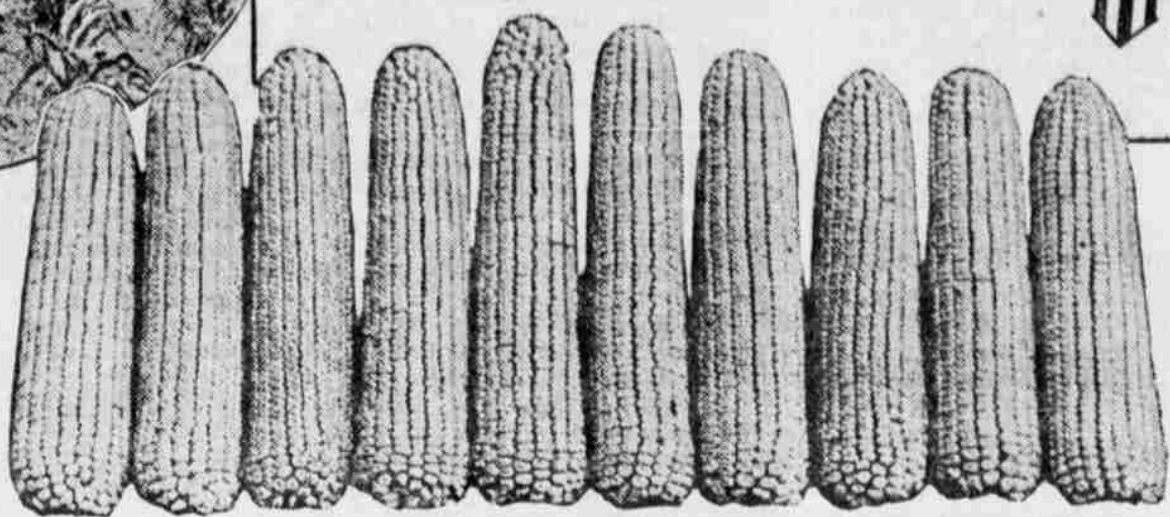


CORN EARLY IN JULY

Farmers of our vast central section not only are giving their sons but are raising bumper crops to help win the war against autocracy

## Middle West in Great Food Drive

By Robert H. Moulton



PRIZE EARS FROM IOWA

paing to enlist the support of all farmers in the work of growing greatly increased crops. "Keep every acre working this summer," is a campaign slogan which is heard in all of the great farming states. The result will be that in the fall the farmers will harvest peanut, bean, buckwheat, potato and other "catch crops," a departure in the history of agriculture. According to present indications, the potato crop will be nearly 200,000,000 bushels larger than ever before, while prodigious quantities of peanuts and beans will be available for food products in the fall and during 1918.

The mobilization of the farms for war service has been conducted along many lines of service. Close co-ordination between all branches of the industry has given tremendous impetus to the campaign to increase the nation's food supply.

Travelers who pass through the middle West this year will see scenes along railroad property comparable to those in Europe, where the farmers have been cultivating such idle ground for years. In some states, notably Iowa and Kansas, well-defined steps have been taken to encourage the planting of certain useful crops along the roadsides. Iowa has more than 200,000 acres of unused land along its public highways which could be drafted for this purpose, while Kansas has more than 150,000 acres, according to a recent survey.

It is safe to say that virtually every acre of

land which can be handled conveniently during the summer months has been placed under cultivation in Iowa and the surrounding states. The labor shortage is so serious that thousands of farmers have been greatly handicapped in putting out increased acreage because of the fear that they would be unable to harvest the crops unaided. It is estimated that the middle West will require an army of 500,000 farm laborers this summer if the food crop is to be saved in its entirety. Farm laborers can command almost any price for their services, but despite alluring offers they are hard to get. Canada is paying as high as \$75 a month for laborers, and in some cases is promising them free homesteads. In the Northern states farm hands can command wages ranging from \$45 to \$60 a month and board. A few years ago the farm hand who could get \$25 or \$30 for his services was considered a genius.

The patriotic service the farmers are doing this year and which they will be called upon to do next year on a much larger scale will add millions, if not billions, of dollars to the wealth of the country. Mobilization of the farm resources has been one of the most stupendous undertakings ever attempted by the government; but it has succeeded admirably well for 1917, despite the late start. By 1918 every available resource of the middle West will be thrown into the production of vastly increased yields of all farm crops.

## The Eskimo Tells the World Why He Asks to be Left Alone

"Why are you trying to educate the Eskimos? Why don't you let them alone? They were happy and were able to exist before you began to change their mode of life."

These are the questions that are asked and answered in *The Eskimo*, a monthly magazine published at Nome, Alaska, in the interests of Eskimos of the northwest district of Alaska. Walter C. Shields, superintendent of the work of the bureau of education, department of the interior, in northwestern Alaska, who writes the leading article in this new magazine of the North, says:

"The people who ask these questions, if they are really sincere enough to warrant any consideration, can be divided into two classes. First, those who display their scientific knowledge by quoting the law of 'the survival of the fittest,' with the assumption that the Eskimo is not fit to survive. The second class claim a peculiar insight into the frame of mind of the ancient Eskimo, who, they assert, was an especially contented individual, and furthermore they insist that the Eskimo of today is not contented."

### Eskimo Fit and Able.

"This set of critics insists on taking the position, indefensible in this day and generation, that education is a bad thing for a people. The claim of our service is that the Eskimo by reason of his inherent qualities and because of his geographical position is fit and able to survive, and we claim that by our system of education for him we are making him not only more fit to survive, but that he will be a vital factor in the development of northern Alaska."

"The Eskimo is not dependent. On the contrary, he is, even in the present condition, a real and vital factor in the wealth of the country. He has never received a ration from the government; he can support himself, not always according to our standards, it is true, but it is better for him to eat strictly native food than for him to learn to expect the government to support him. The wall so often heard from ignorant but presumably charitable people, 'Why don't you give the poor people some food?' if heeded would make paupers of a self-supporting and noble race. We are proud of the fact that we have not fed the Eskimo. We are proud of him as a man because he feeds himself."

"One reason why primitive races have so often been pushed to the wall by the white race has been that the white race has coveted and needed the land. As far as we can see, for years to come the white man will not make any attempt to push the Eskimo off his part of the map. While there will undoubtedly be developments in mining, yet for a long time to come the Eskimo will have plenty of room in northern Alaska. Therefore, even if this northern part of Alaska, through some unexpected development, should become desirable for a large population, we believe that, with what development the Eskimo has already received and the additional development that even five years more of undisturbed possession of his northern fastnesses will give him, he will be well fitted to meet advanced economic conditions."

"The keynote of our school system for the Eskimo is its direct relation to the village life. Thus the school republic becomes the village council, the school garden soon becomes the village garden, the cooking class becomes the bread-baking class for the village, the clean-up of the school grounds becomes the village clean-up, the bench work for the boys' class becomes the boat and sled building center for the village. And, most striking of all, the schoolboy who is sent to the reindeer herd as an apprentice in four years becomes the trained

herder, the supporter of his family and a future leader of his people."

### "We Want No Praise."

"We of the Alaska service are helping to